

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 11, 2007. Claim 41 has been added herein. Claims 1 to 41 are in the application, of which claims 1, 14, 23, 32 and 41 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants have noted with appreciation the Examiner's objection to the original claim numbering, and hereby acknowledge the renumbering of original claims 22 (second instance) to 39 as renumbered claims 24 to 40, as reflected in the attached Listing Of Claims. In a similar vein, renumbered dependent claims 33 to 40 have been amended to properly reference their associated, renumbered base claims. Withdrawal of the objection and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,532,218 ("Shaffer") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0222762 ("Beigl"). With regard to the present application and Beigl, and under 37 C.F.R. § 103(c) and MPEP § 706.02(I)(2), the attached Statement Concerning Common Ownership provides sufficient evidence to establish common ownership of, or an obligation for assignment to, the same organization. Beigl is therefore disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Withdrawal of the § 103 rejection, as moot, and further consideration are respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent claims 1, 14, 23, 32 and 41 are believed to be allowable. The other claims in the application are each dependent from these independent claims, and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define additional aspects, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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The fee in the amount of \$250.00 for the additional independent claim is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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